

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the abstract in its entirety and replace therefor with the following.

A method of communicating with a shared imaging apparatus connected to a computer network, wherein communication over the network is facilitated through use of network packets, includes the steps of providing the shared imaging apparatus with networking hardware; providing the shared imaging apparatus with imaging apparatus firmware; defining a data channel associated with the networking hardware; instructing the networking hardware to accept information on the data channel from a user that owns the data channel; processing automatic Internet Protocol (IP) address negotiation network packets with the imaging apparatus firmware when the data channel is not owned; and processing second types of network packets, different from the automatic IP address negotiation network packets, by the networking hardware of the shared imaging apparatus when the data channel is owned.